

# **SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT TO THE 14<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Theme: Investing in energy and industrial development - challenges and opportunities**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK  
05 May 2006**

## **INTRODUCTION**

As a developing economy, growth is what we need to reduce poverty levels and meet the MDG goals. There is a direct link between development and investing in energy generation. Energy production for South Africa is heavily dependent on coal resources. The challenge therefore is to invest in clean coal technologies as well as implementing an appropriate mix of sustainable energy production mechanisms. Objectives that have to be met in this regard include shared access to energy, pollution reduction, energy efficiency improvements, and diversification of the energy mix to include renewable sources.

## **CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES**

The following are some of the constraints that we experience in our efforts to meet the objectives above.

- Backlogs in investment infrastructure to support sustainable development
- Lack of awareness of the benefits of sustainable energy usage both in industry and at the residential setting
- Unbalanced competition between renewable energy production and fossil fuel production
- Expensive technologies for cleaner energy production
- Lack of widespread harmonization of energy efficiency standards and labeling

Government will invest R372-billion over the next three years into various infrastructure development projects, including investment to increase electricity supply by the state. For the residential sector these investments will target replacing illuminating Paraffin as a household fuel with LPG and bio-ethanol gel as well as energy saving technologies. Government intends to strengthen its R&D activities in solar, wind and bio-fuels work.

## **KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE POLICY SESSION**

Accelerating investments in best affordable energy technologies

Strengthening international and regional cooperation in cleaner production efforts

Developing R&D networks to enhance innovative capacity and knowledge